

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PCH-04 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00

CIAE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 NSAE-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY NEA TASK FORCE:JCDEAN:BN
APPROVED BY NEA TASK FORCE:GNANDERSON
S/S-0:RWRIGHT

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O 290622Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

USDEL SALT TWO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CURACAO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

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EXDIS

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT DOHA

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

BRASILIA POUCH RECIFE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: STATE 212632

SECRET

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1. FOLLOWING IS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION THROUGH EVENING
OF OCTOBER 28:
2. UNEF/UNTSO. THE UNSYG IS CAREFULLY CONSIDERING
OVERALL COMPOSITION OF UNEF IN LIGHT OF INFORMAL

CONSULTATIONS WITH SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
OCTOBER 27. WE ANTICIPATE HE WILL REPORT HIS
CONCLUSIONS TO SC MEMBERS IN NEAR FUTURE. NO
MEETING OF UNSC IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED; UN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS
(ACABQ) IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE FINANCING
ISSUE MONDAY AFTERNOON. A CONVOY OF 24 UN TRUCKS
CARRYING MEDICAL AND OTHER NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES
FOR EGYPTIAN III ARMY WAS STOPPED BY IDF AND
THEN ALLOWED TO PROCEED IN GROUPS OF TEN. FIRST
GROUP ARRIVED AT ITS DESTINATION, PRESUMABLY EAST
SIDE OF CANAL AND UNLOADED.

3. CEASE-FIRE, ALL FRONTS GENERALLY QUIET. IDF REPORTED
IN THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE SUEZ CANAL; IDF
CLAIMS TO HAVE REPULSED SEVERAL ATTEMPTED EGYPTIAN
ATTACKS, ISRAEL COMPLAINED TO UN OBSERVERS ABOUT
ATTEMPTED ATTACKS AND ALSO OVER SAM'S BEING FIRED
AT IDF AIRCRAFT IN VICINITY OF ISMAILIA AT NOON.

4. DIPLOMATS ARRIVING. ISMAIL FAHMI, ACTING EGYPTIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER, IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON
FROM CAIRO ON OCTOBER 29 WITH A "SPECIAL MESSAGE."
ALSO, SYRIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED
ZAKARIYA ISMAIL IS REPORTEDLY ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON
SAME DAY. THE TIMING OF THEIR ARRIVAL COULD SIGNAL
AN ATTEMPT AT A COORDINATED EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN EFFORT
WITH USG.

5. JORDAN/SYRIA. THE JAF IS RETURNING TO BUSINESS AS
USUAL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THERE ARE REPORTS
THAT IRAQI UNITS APPEAR TO BE DEPARTING SYRIA.
THE THINKING IN JAF IS THAT FEARS OF IRAQI MILITARY
INTERVENTION IN SYRIAN POLITICS WERE PROBABLY
GROUNDLESS, BUT FINAL ASSESSMENT WILL NOT BE MADE
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UNTIL ALL IRAQI FORCES HAVE DEPARTED.

6. FEDAYEEN. EMBASSY AMMAN HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM
BEIRUT THAT ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO LEADERS ARE
ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO CREATE MOMENTUM FOR AN
INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON WEST BANK AND
THAT UNSPECIFIED FEDAYEEN CONTINGENTS ARE PLANNING
A MAJOR CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOL.

7. ISRAEL. GHANA AND SENEGAL BROKE DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL ON OCTOBER 28. MINISTER
OF JUSTICE SHAPIRO ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO
RESIGN. HE HAD EARLIER UNSUCCESSFULLY CALLED
FOR DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN'S RESIGNATION OVER
CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

8. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. UPI ACCOUNT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN'S REMARKS (PARAGRAPH 9, REFTTEL) HAS BEEN CALLED HIGHLY INACCURATE BY TWO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS PRESENT AT BACKGROUND SESSION. UPI WAS NOT PRESENT. TERENCE SMITH, NEW YORK TIMES, WHO WAS PRESENT, SAID EBAN REMARKED THAT TOTAL ENERGIES OF GOI PRESENTLY ABSORBED IN CEASE-FIRE AND CABINET HAD NOT DISCUSSED BLUEPRINT FOR SETTLEMENT. EBAN DID TOSS OUT SEVERAL POSSIBLE SCENARIOS IN VERY GENERAL TERMS IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, BUT NOTHING RESEMBLING UPI ACCOUNT. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WEST BANK OF CANAL WAS NOT A "NATURAL" PLACE FOR ISRAELIS TO RESIDE AND HE REALIZED THAT EAST BANK OCCUPATION "CANNOT LAST FOREVER." ASKED WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN, EBAN WAS SAID TO HAVE REPLIED "WE ARE WAITING FOR THE BIG POWERS TO TELL US." HE SAID HE ASSUMED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE UNDER AUSPICES OF US AND USSR AND THAT THIS IS PREFERABLE TO ANY OTHER AUSPICES. EMBASSY TEL AVIV NOTES THAT LOCAL UPI OFFICE ALMOST TOTALLY STAFFED BY INEXPERIENCED REPORTERS.
9. POW SITUATION. IN AN OCTOBER 27 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KEATING, FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN STRESSED SECRET

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CENTRAL ROLE OF A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF POW ISSUE TO ANY HOPES FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE ME. HE SAID THIS WAS AN EXPLOSIVE ISSUE IN ISRAEL, AND SAID THE GOI WAS KEEPING THE LID ON SOME "MACABRE" INFORMATION ABOUT ITS POW'S IN ARAB HANDS IN ORDER NOT TO INFLAME ALREADY HIGH ISRAELI FEELINGS. TO DATE ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED VIA ICRC THE NAMES OF ONLY 40 ISRAELI POW'S FROM EGYPT, AND NONE FROM SYRIA. ISRAEL NOW CLAIMS IT IS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH RESPECT TO REPORTING THE NAMES OF ARAB POW'S.

10. ON OCTOBER 27 AN ISRAELI SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED PLANS TO REPATRIATE ON AN ICRC PLANE 30 WOUNDED EGYPTIAN POW'S, HOPING FOR RECIPROCAL EGYPTIAN ACTION. AT TODAY'S MEETING OF ISRAELI CABINET IT WAS DECIDED TO DELAY THIS REPATRIATION UNTIL EGYPT PROVIDES ICRC ACCESS TO AND LISTS OF ISRAELI POW'S.
11. LATEST IDF ESTIMATE IS THAT EGYPT HAS 220 ISRAELI POW'S, SYRIA 97 AND LEBANON 2. IN PROVIDING THIS INFORMATION IDF SPOKESMAN MIMICED EBAN'S CONCERN OVER EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE POW ISSUE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE212653
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA TASK FORCE:JCDEAN:BN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750020-1094
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcejik.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 212632
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
TAGS: MOPS, PDIP, SY, EG, IS, JO, IZ, UNEF, UNSC, (FAHMI, ISMAIL), (ISMAIL, MOHMED ZAKARIYA), (SHAPIRO), (ARAFAT), (DAYAN), (EBAN)
To: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
NOUAKCHOTT
SALT TWO
SUVA BY POUCH
BANJUL BY POUCH
CURACAO BY POUCH

MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

XMT SUVA

BANJUL

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005